

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Vaartstra) Group Art Unit: Unknown
Serial No.: Unassigned) Examiner: Unknown
Filed: Herewith)
For: METHODS, COMPLEXES, AND SYSTEMS FOR FORMING METAL-CONTAINING FILMS
ON SEMICONDUCTOR STRUCTURES

ELECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§3.71 AND 3.73 AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The undersigned, being Assignee of the entire interest in the above-identified application by virtue of an Assignment recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office as set forth below or filed herewith, hereby elects, under 37 C.F.R. §3.71, to prosecute the application to the exclusion of the inventor(s).

The Assignee hereby revokes any previous Powers of Attorney and appoints: Ann M. Muetting (Reg. No. 33,977); Kevin W. Raasch (Reg. No. 35,651); Mark J. Gebhardt (Reg. No. 35,518); Amelia A. Buharin (Reg. No. 38,835); Victoria A. Sandberg (Reg. No. 41,287); Mark A. Hollingsworth (Reg. No. 38,491); Paul B. Simboli (Reg. No. 38,616); David L. Provence (Reg. No. 43,022); Lia M. Pappas (Reg. No. 34,095); W. Eric Webostad (Reg. No. 35,406); Walter M. Fields (Reg. No. 37,130); Charles B. Brantley, II (Reg. No. 38,086); Susan B. Collier (Reg. No. 34, 566); Kevin D. Martin (Reg. No. 37,882); and David J. Paul (Reg. No. 34,692)

as its attorney or agent (with full powers of appointment, substitution, and revocation) to prosecute the application, and any division, continuation, continuation-in-part, reexamination, or reissue thereof, to make alterations and amendments therein, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith, and to receive any Letters Patent.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §3.73, the undersigned certifies that the evidentiary documents have been reviewed, specifically the Assignment to Micron Technology, Inc. referenced below, and certifies that to the best of my knowledge and belief, title remains in the name of the Assignee.

Please direct all communications as follows:

Attention: Ann M. Muetting
Muetting, Raasch & Gebhardt, P.A.
P.O. Box 581415
Minneapolis, MN 55458-1415
Telephone No. (612) 305-1217

ASSIGNEE: Micron Technology, Inc.

Date: 9/2/98

By: [Signature]
Name: Michael L. Lynch
Title: Chief Patent Counsel

ASSIGNMENT:

☒ Concurrently filed herewith for recording, a copy of which is attached hereto.
☐ Previously recorded on : _____, at Reel : _____ Frame : _____.

DECLARATION

I, Brian A. Vaartstra, declare that: (1) my citizenship and mailing address are indicated below; (2) I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification identified below, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to herein, (3) I believe that I am the original and first inventor of the subject matter in

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described and claimed therein and for which a patent is sought; and (4) I hereby acknowledge my duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to the patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.*

The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of his/her own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Wherefore, I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention described and claimed in the specification identified above and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, Declaration and Power of Attorney, on the date indicated below.



Name: Brian A. Vaartstra
Citizenship: Canada
Address: 3417 Braden Lane
Nampa, ID 83686

Date

Sept '98

*Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 is reproduced on the attached page.

§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.